



PRECEPT
UPON
PRECEPT®

English Standard Version

1 Thessalonians

YOU—BLAMELESS
AT HIS COMING

PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT®

English Standard Version

1 THESSALONIANS
YOU—BLAMELESS AT HIS COMING

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HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY; ARTHUR, DAVID; DE LACY, PETE

How to Study Your Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1994/2010

The New Inductive Study Bible—English Standard Version

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2013

Commentaries on I Thessalonians

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

MARTIN, D. MICHAEL

The New American Commentary: Volume 33, I, 2 Thessalonians

Nashville, Tennessee: B & H Publishing Group, 1995

MORRIS, LEON

Tyndale New Testament Commentaries: Volume 13, I & 2 Thessalonians

Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2009.

THOMAS, ROBERT L.; EARLE, RALPH; HIEBERT, D. EDMOND

Expositor's Bible Commentary: I, 2 Thessalonians; I, 2 Timothy; Titus

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996

WALVOORD, JOHN F.; ZUCK, ROY B., EDS.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures—New Testament

Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1983-c1985

RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

Logos Bible Software

Powerful search engines and up to 4,000 electronic Bible study resources (commentaries, lexicons, Bible dictionaries etc.) make it fast and easy to do simple and complex searches of multiple sources, then pull materials together for orderly presentation—excellent for word and topical studies based on English or original Hebrew and Greek. Available at www.logos.com.



LESSON ONE

Overview

THIS LESSON INCORPORATES The following located in the Appendix:
Observation Worksheets of 1 Thessalonians
“1 Thessalonians at a Glance”
Map
Cross-references

“Go . . . and make disciples . . .” (Matthew 28:19). That is our Lord’s command. None who know and love God can avoid it!

Here is a book that will give the “how” to those who would obey. First Thessalonians: evangelism and discipleship in action! This is just the book for you, Beloved, because you care enough to learn!

DAY ONE

The Precept™ Bible Study Method begins with the Bible itself. It is finding out what the Bible says. In this method, it’s helpful to survey letters as a whole before dissecting them. In the dissection, you will see how the parts relate to the whole.

In this week’s lesson you will overview 1 Thessalonians to get an overall picture of the whole book. If you will do each section of your homework this week in a thorough manner, you will begin to see the framework of 1 Thessalonians. Every part of the method used this week will reveal the message of the book to one depth or another.

1. The Word of God is different from other books. It is recorded for us by men God inspired to write the truths of His choosing. Thus, the truths of the Bible can be understood only through revelation, taught by the Spirit.

So as you begin each day’s study, ask God, by His Spirit, to open your eyes so that you might behold wonderful things from His Word.

2. If you have never done a Precept Upon Precept® course before, read the section “Getting the Big Picture” in *How to Study Your Bible*.



3. In the Appendix you will find the book of 1 Thessalonians, double-spaced. Read 1 Thessalonians using these Observation Worksheets and mark references to the author. Color the author(s) and pronouns for the author(s).
4. Record what you learn about the author on the page “Author” at the end of the lesson. Do not include what the author tells the recipients to do. Also, note the chapter and verse where you saw the information.
5. What do you admire in these three men that you can incorporate into your life?

If you are a first-timer, welcome. We are thrilled to have you—you are an answer to prayer. We are asking God for “disciples” who are serious about their relationship to Jesus Christ. This is going to be a life-changing experience.

DAY TWO

Today we’ll continue our Overview of 1 Thessalonians by moving from the author to the recipients. Pray before you begin, asking God to teach you by His Spirit as you study His Word.

1. Read 1 Thessalonians again and this time mark references to the recipients, including the pronouns *you* and *your*.
2. At the end of the lesson you’ll find the page “Recipients.” List what you learn about them. Again, do not include what the author tells them to do.
3. Keeping in mind what you learned about the author and the recipients, what did you notice about the time in which they were living? For example, what was happening to believers? Record any insights below.



4. What did you observe about the Church in Thessalonica that you would like to incorporate into your life?

DAY
THREE

1. By this time, you may have observed some words and phrases repeated throughout the book. These are called “key words.” Making a **Key Word Bookmark** will be beneficial.

Cut out the Key Word Bookmark on the back cover of your workbook. On one side of your bookmark, you’ll see marking suggestions for some words often used in the Bible. An asterisk [*] shows these in this workbook.

On the blank side of the bookmark, list the key words below and how you will mark them.

- a. Read 1 Thessalonians again and mark in a distinctive way, color, or combination:
 - 1) *gospel, * word of the Lord*
 - 2) *suffer, afflictions**
 - 3) *references to the Lord’s coming**
 - b. Also mark geographical locations.*
2. Look at each place you marked references to the Lord’s coming and list what you learn on the page at the end of this lesson. “The Coming of the Lord.”
 3. How do you view the Lord’s coming? How are you encouraging fellow believers to be ready?



“Behold, I am coming. . . . The Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who hears say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price” (Revelation 22:12a, 17).

DAY
FOUR

1. Are you ready to begin another day in 1 Thessalonians? If you have not prayed, take a few moments to do so now. Ask the Lord for wisdom and understanding as you study. Colossians 1:9-12 is wonderful to pray for yourself, your Precept leader, and the others in your discussion group.
2. Read 1 Thessalonians a chapter at a time, looking at the words you’ve marked, and answer the following questions:
 - a. Chapter 1—Who and what is this chapter mainly about?
 - b. Chapter 2—Who and what is this chapter mainly about?
 - c. Chapter 3—What did Paul do and why?
 - d. How are chapters 4 and 5 different from chapters 1–3?
3. Find the chart “1 Thessalonians at a Glance” in the Appendix. Let’s begin filling it in. You might use a pencil in case you want to change something later.
 - a. Fill in the “Author,” as well as the “Key Words” you’ve marked.
 - b. Record under “Historical Setting” what you learned about the setting or circumstances surrounding this letter.



- c. Review your answers under number 2. At this point, do you have a general idea why Paul wrote this letter? Record it under “Purpose.”
- d. Considering why Paul wrote and what he wrote about, summarize a theme for the book using a few words from the text. Review your list on the Lord’s coming. What was Paul’s desire for the Thessalonians? Record the theme beside “Book Theme” on the **At a Glance** chart.
- e. A segment is a group of chapters with a common theme or event. Segment divisions can help you see the framework of the book. In the Segment Divisions column, record what you’ve observed in 1 Thessalonians. Draw a horizontal line between the segments and label each segment.
- f. That’s all for now, but we’ll continue to complete this chart as we study 1 Thessalonians.

**DAY
FIVE**

1. Today we’ll discover more about the historical setting of 1 Thessalonians. Read the following questions; then search for answers in chapters 1 and 2.
 - a. How did the Thessalonians hear the gospel?
 - b. What were the circumstances surrounding their conversion?
 - c. Where was Paul before he went to Thessalonica? What happened to him there?
 - d. What happened to the Thessalonians when they received the gospel?



- e. As you've observed, several locations are referred to in 1 Thessalonians: Macedonia, Achaia, Philippi, and Athens. Find these places on the map in the Appendix and note the location of each one in relationship to the others. Also find Thessalonica. This will help you become familiar with geography in the days when the gospel was beginning to spread.
2. Acts 16:9-24, 40; 17:1-16; 18:1 gives us additional insight into how the gospel was brought to Thessalonica. As you read this portion of Scripture, follow Paul's travels on the map in the Appendix. Silvanus is referred to as Silas in Acts. We've left space for those who want to make a few notes. (If you have time, read Acts 16:9-40.)
3. Study the chart, "Sequence of Events in Paul's Life After His Conversion" found at the end of this lesson. Then answer the following:
 - a. When did Paul take the gospel to the Thessalonians? (Remember, Acts 17 tells about Paul's initial trip to Thessalonica. Compare this with the left column on the chart.)
 - b. When did Paul write 1 Thessalonians?
 - 1) According to the chart, which missionary journey was he on?
 - 2) Now check the introduction to 1 Thessalonians in the *New Inductive Study Bible* or the introductory section in a commentary on 1 Thessalonians. Record the date on your At a Glance chart under "Date."



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1 Thessalonians

Lesson 1, Overview



AUTHOR



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1 Thessalonians

Lesson 1, Author



RECIPIENTS



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1 Thessalonians
Lesson 1, Recipients



THE COMING OF THE LORD



1 Thessalonians

Lesson 1, Sequence of Events in Paul's Life after His Conversion

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS IN PAUL'S LIFE AFTER HIS CONVERSION*		
Scripture	Year A.D.	Event
Acts 9:1-25	33-34	Conversion, time in Damascus
	35-47	Some silent years, except we know that Paul:
Galatians 1:17		1. Spent time in Arabia and Damascus
Acts 9:26; Galatians 1:18		2. Made first visit to Jerusalem
Acts 9:30-11:26; Galatians 1:21		3. Went to Tarsus, Syria-Cilicia area
Acts 11:26		4. Was with Barnabas in Antioch
Acts 11:27-30		5. With Barnabas took relief to brethren in Judea; Paul's second visit to Jerusalem
Acts 12:23	44	Herod Agrippa I dies
Acts 12:25-13:3		6. Returned to Antioch; was sent out with Barnabas by church at Antioch
Acts 13:4-14:26	47-48	First missionary journey: <i>Galatians</i> written (?) Proconsul Sergius Paulus at Paphos
Acts 15:1-35	49	Apostolic Council at Jerusalem—Paul visits Jerusalem <i>Galatians</i> written (?)
Acts 15:36-18:22	49-51	Second missionary journey: <i>1 and 2 Thessalonians</i> written— 1½ years in Corinth, Acts 18:11
	51-52	Gallio known to be proconsul in Corinth
Acts 18:23-21:17	52-56	Third missionary journey: <i>1 and 2 Corinthians and Romans</i> written— 1 Cor. from Ephesus, 2 Cor. from Macedonia, Romans from Corinth
Acts 21:17-23:35	56	Paul goes to Jerusalem and is arrested; held in Caesarea
Acts 24-26	57-59	Appearance before Felix and Drusilla; before Festus—appeals to Caesar; before Agrippa
Acts 27-28:15	59-60	Paul goes from Caesarea to Rome
Acts 28:16-31	60-62	First Roman imprisonment: <i>Ephesians, Philemon, Colossians, and Philippians</i> written—2 years in prison
	62	Paul's release; possible trip to Spain
	62	Paul in Macedonia: <i>1 Timothy</i> written
	62	Paul goes to Crete <i>Titus</i> written
	63-64	Paul taken to Rome and imprisoned: <i>2 Timothy</i> written
	64	Paul is absent from the body and present with the Lord (Others put Paul's conversion about A.D. 35, his death at A.D. 68.)



1 THESSALONIANS 1

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

PAUL, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

- 2 We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers,
- 3 remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 4 For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you,
- 5 because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.
- 6 And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit,
- 7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.
- 8 For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything.
- 9 For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,
- 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.



1 THESSALONIANS 2

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

FOR you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain.

2 But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict.

3 For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive,

4 but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts.

5 For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness.

6 Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ.

7 But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children.

8 So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

9 For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

10 You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers.

11 For you know how, like a father with his children,



- 12 we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.
- 13 And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.
- 14 For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea. For you suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews,
- 15 who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out, and displease God and oppose all mankind
- 16 by hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles that they might be saved—so as always to fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them at last!
- 17 But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face,
- 18 because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us.
- 19 For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you?
- 20 For you are our glory and joy.



1 THESSALONIANS 3

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- THEREFORE** when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone,
- 2 and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith,
 - 3 that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this.
 - 4 For when we were with you, we kept telling you beforehand that we were to suffer affliction, just as it has come to pass, and just as you know.
 - 5 For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain.
 - 6 But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us the good news of your faith and love and reported that you always remember us kindly and long to see us, as we long to see you—
 - 7 for this reason, brothers, in all our distress and affliction we have been comforted about you through your faith.
 - 8 For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord.
 - 9 For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God,
 - 10 as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?
 - 11 Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you,
 - 12 and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you,
 - 13 so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.



1 THESSALONIANS 4

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

FINALLY, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more.

2 For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality;

4 that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor,

5 not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God;

6 that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you.

7 For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness.

8 Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

9 Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another,

10 for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more,

11 and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you,

12 so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.



- 15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.
- 16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.
- 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.
- 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.



1 THESSALONIANS 5

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

NOW concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you.

- 2 For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.
- 3 While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.
- 4 But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.
- 5 For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness.
- 6 So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.
- 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night.
- 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.
- 9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
- 10 who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.
- 11 Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.
- 12 We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you,
- 13 and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.



- 14 And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.
- 15 See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.
- 16 Rejoice always,
17 pray without ceasing,
18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
- 19 Do not quench the Spirit.
20 Do not despise prophecies,
21 but test everything; hold fast what is good.
22 Abstain from every form of evil.
- 23 Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 24 He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.
- 25 Brothers, pray for us.
- 26 Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss.
- 27 I put you under oath before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers.
- 28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.



1 THESSALONIANS AT A GLANCE

Book Theme:

	Chapter Themes	Segment Divisions
Author:	1	
Recipients:		
Date:	2	
Purpose:		
Historical Setting:	3	
	4	
Key Words:		
	5	



1 Thessalonians
Map



